

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

L-03 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /142 W

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P 241215Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9938

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA: ISSUES AND DELEGATION FOR NARIBOI IMF/IBRD MEETING

REF: A) STATE 11652 B) STATE 159015 C) COLOMBO 2081

D) COLOMBO 2141

1. ALTHOUGH DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS EMBASSY HAS QUERIED SENIOR GSL OFFICIALS CONCERNED INCLUDING MEMBERS PROPOSED DELEGATION, THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED WITH INFO ON SPECIFIC ISSUES GSL MIGHT RAISE BILATERALLY AT NAIROBI. WE BELIEVE HIGH GSL FINANCE OFFICIALS ARE NOW FULLY PREOCCUPIED WITH IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL AND FOOD SUPPLY "CRISES" (REFTELS), AND IT IS UNLIKELY THEY HAVE FOCUSED EVEN TO PREPARE TENTATIVE POSITIONS FOR SEPT MEETINGS. IN THE PAST GSL DELEGATION HAS GENERALLY NOT TAKEN UP BILATERAL ISSUES AT IMF/IBRD MEETINGS.

2. IN ABSENCE SOLID INFO, WE SPECULATE THAT ONLY ISSUE GSL DELEGATION MIGHT RAISE WITH USDEL IS GSL SHORT AND LONG-TERM DEBT BURDEN IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT FISCAL CRISIS AS PERCEIVED BY GSL AND OF OBLIGATIONS TO UNITED STATES. THEY MIGHT PROBE ON POSSIBLE US POSITION ON DEBT RELIEF.

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3. ISSUES US SHOULD RAISE: AT THIS TIME WE HAVE NO

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. IN CONTEXT SRI LANKA'S CLEARLY WORSENING FINANCIAL POSITION AND RECENT INTENSE DISCUSSIONS WITH IMF/IBRD, USDEL MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE GOOD CHANGE TO ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HOW GSL TOP LEVEL PERCEIVES COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND WHAT INSTITUTIONAL, MONETARY, AND FISCAL POLICY DECISIONS IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERING.

4. WE SHALL REPORT MORE SPECIFIC INFO WHEN AND IF AVAILABLE.

5. PLANNED GSL DELEGATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. N. PERERA, MINISTER OF FINANCE
2. HERBERT TENNEKOON, GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF CEYLON
3. C.A. COOREY, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
- R. SENA GOONSEKARA, PRIVATE SECTY TO FINANCE  
MINISTER
5. LAL JAYAWARDENA, ADDITIONAL SECTY, PLANNING MINISTRY
6. AUSTIN FERNANDO, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES,  
PLANNING MINISTRY
7. DR W.L.TILAKARATNA, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR OF IMF BOARD,  
SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF CEYLON.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 07 JAN 2002  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SRI LANKA: ISSUES AND DELEGATION FOR NARIBOI IMF/IBRD MEETING  
**TAGS:** EFIN, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005